

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

New claim 21 has been added.

Claims 11, 12, 14, 19, and 20 have been canceled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-10, 13, 15-18, and 21 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to overcome these rejections. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-14 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 9 recites a manufacturing apparatus of an endless metal belt having metal rings built up and differing in circumference that comprises a machine to perform a first circumference correction on one of the metal rings and a second circumference correction on the metal ring, wherein the first circumference correction and the second circumference correction expand the metal ring; and a heat treatment device to perform a solution heat treatment on the metal ring; wherein the machine to perform the first circumference

correction and the second circumference correction is adapted to perform the second circumference correction after a solution heat treatment has been performed by the heat treatment device; wherein the machine comprises: a work roller and a tension roller that are configured to perform the circumference correction on the metal ring when the metal ring is placed around the circumferences of the work roller and the tension roller; a first driver configured to drive the work roller so as to rotate the work roller; a second driver configured to apply a tension to the metal ring; a rolling roller configured to perform a rolling step on the metal ring, wherein the rolling roller is configured to rotatably sandwich the metal ring between the work roller and the rolling roller; a third driver configured to drive the rolling roller so as to rotate the rolling roller; and a fourth driver configured to move the rolling roller against the work roller so as to press the metal ring, wherein the fourth driver is configured to move the rolling roller in a direction away from the work roller and the metal ring; wherein the work roller and the rolling roller are driven by the first and third drivers to rotate synchronously with each other. Amended claim 17 includes similar language.

By providing a manufacturing apparatus of an endless metal belt having metal rings built up and differing in circumference that includes a machine that comprises a work roller and a tension roller in which the work roller and a rolling roller are driven by the first and third drivers to rotate synchronously with each other, it is possible to improve the accuracy and transferability of a metal ring, as noted in Applicants' specification at page 19, line 26, to page 20, line 2.

The Office alleges that pages 1 and 2 of the specification serve as AAPA that anticipates the claimed apparatus. However, pages 1 and 2 of the specification do not disclose a manufacturing apparatus of an endless metal belt having metal rings built up and differing in circumference that includes a machine that comprises a work roller and a rolling roller "wherein the work roller and the rolling roller are driven by the first and third drivers to rotate synchronously with each other." Therefore, AAPA does not disclose all of the features of claims 9 and 17. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,542 (hereafter "Imai et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 3,892,344 (hereafter "Corse"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Imai et al. and Corse fail to remedy the deficiencies of the alleged AAPA. The Office relies upon Imai et al. and Corse to provide a circumference measurement section. See Office Action at page 3. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Imai et al. as applied to claim 15, and further in view of JP 61-82910 and Corse. This rejection is respectfully traversed. JP 61-82910 and Corse fail to remedy the deficiencies of the alleged AAPA and Imai et al. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim

Applicants submit that new claim 21 is allowable over the prior art for at least the reasons noted above. Applicants submit that the disclosure of the application provides support for new claim 21. For example, page 17, line 11, to page 18, line 1, of Applicants' specification provides support for claim 21.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for

such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 10/8/06

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